

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

5. **(Currently Amended)** A joint socket for a hip endoprosthesis, comprising:
a socket shell configured to be implanted in the pelvic bone of a patient, the socket shell having an inner surface that defines an accommodating space extending about an axis of rotation; and
a socket insert configured to provide a bearing for a joint head of a prosthesis stem, a spherical outer surface of said socket insert configured to be disposed in the accommodating space of the socket shell and contact the inner surface along a line of contact that is concentric with the axis of rotation of the accommodating space and is surrounded by and intersects the spherical outer surface, the socket insert coupleable in a self-locking manner within said accommodating space,

wherein the inner surface of the socket shell tapers toward a pole of the shell in the region of said line of contact in such a manner that a radius of curvature in the [[said]] region is greater than the spherical radius of the outer surface of said socket insert.

6. (Previously Presented) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein the inner surface has a conical shape and defines an infinite radius of curvature in the region of said line of contact.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The joint socket of Claim 6, wherein a cone angle of said conically [[narrowing]] shaped inner surface is a self-locking angle corresponding to a material pairing of said socket shell and said socket insert.

8. (Previously Presented) The joint socket of Claim 7, wherein the cone angle of said conical inner surface is between about 4° and 10°.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The joint socket of Claim 7, wherein the cone angle of said conical inner surface is about [[4.5]] 4.5°.

10. (Previously Presented) The joint socket of Claim 7, wherein the cone angle of said conical inner surface is about 9.5°.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for implanting a joint socket for a hip endoprosthesis, comprising:

inserting a socket shell in a pelvic bone, the socket shell having a conical inner surface that defines an accommodating space extending about an axis of rotation;

loosely inserting a socket insert into the accommodating space so that an outer surface of the socket insert comes into contact with the conical inner surface; rotating the socket insert within the accommodating space to a desired position; tilting the socket insert within the accommodating space to a desired position; and pressing the socket insert into the accommodating space to engage the socket insert with the socket shell in a self-locking manner.

12. (New) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein the joint socket and the joint insert are configured to allow free rotation and tilting of the insert in the socket shell.

13. (New) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein at least a portion of an outer surface of the socket shell comprises a threaded portion.

14. (New) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein the socket shell is configured to be fixed in bone by one or more screws.

15. (New) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein the accommodating space comprises a generally flat base.

16. (New) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein the socket insert is a metallic socket insert.

17. (New) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein the socket insert is a ceramic socket insert.

18. (New) The joint socket of Claim 5, wherein the line of contact is spaced between about 5mm and 15mm from an opening of the accommodating space.

19. (New) A joint socket for a hip endoprosthesis, comprising:

a socket shell configured for implantation in a pelvic bone, the socket shell having an inner surface that defines an accommodating space extending about an axis of rotation; and

a socket insert comprising a bearing surface configured to receive a joint head of a prosthesis stem, the socket insert comprising a spherical outer surface configured for insertion in the accommodating space of the socket shell and configured to contact the inner surface of the socket shell along a line of contact that is concentric with the axis of rotation of the accommodating space, the socket insert coupleable in a self-locking manner within said accommodating space,

wherein the inner surface of the socket shell tapers toward a pole of the shell in the axial region on either side of said line of contact in such a manner that a radius of curvature in the region is greater than the spherical radius of the outer surface of said socket insert.

20. (New) The joint socket of Claim 19, wherein the line of contact intersects the spherical outer surface.

21. (New) The joint socket of Claim 19, wherein the inner surface has a conical shape and defines an infinite radius of curvature in the region axially surrounding said line of contact.

22. (New) The joint socket of Claim 21, wherein a cone angle of said conically shaped inner surface is a self-locking angle corresponding to a material pairing of said socket shell and said socket insert.

23. (New) The joint socket of Claim 22, wherein the cone angle of said conical inner surface is between about 4° and 10°.

24. (New) The joint socket of Claim 23, wherein the cone angle of said conical inner surface is about 4.5°.

25. (New) The joint socket of Claim 23, wherein the cone angle of said conical inner surface is about 9.5°.